



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8
Rosa
10-22-01

In re application of

Jiangtao WEN, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/201,816

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2613

Filed: December 01, 1998

Examiner: Andy RAO

For: MOTION VECTOR PREDICTION METHOD

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2001, please consider the following remarks:

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the office action, the Examiner did not acknowledge Applicant's claim for domestic priority, based on the earlier filed provisional application. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge this priority claim.

Also, the Examiner did not indicate his consideration of the references listed on the information disclosure statements filed July 7, 1999 and November 9, 1999. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner indicate that he has considered the references.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Eifrig.

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if

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rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2.

Applicant traverses the rejections as set forth below.

Applicant's invention relates to a method for predicting motion vectors, which allows for recovery of lost motion vectors through backward decoding of the motion vectors. In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors are continuously predicted in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors.

Eifrig et al. (US Patent No. 6,026,195) (hereinafter "Eifrig") relates to a motion estimation and compensation technique for a video object plane or similar video image which is interlaced coded and/or uses reference images which are interlaced coded. Eifrig's method uses horizontal and vertical motion vector components for differentially encoding respective horizontal and vertical motion vector components of first and second fields of a current field coded macroblock of a digital video image.

Applicant submits that Eifrig does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. In particular, Eifrig does not disclose predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors continuously in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors. Instead of disclosing the claimed predetermined sequence, Eifrig discloses predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors in no particular sequence. Also, Eifrig fails to disclose having correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors. The excerpt referred to by the Examiner as disclosing these features discloses the general idea of calculating a median or an average of a sequence of

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motion vectors, but does not discuss using a predetermined sequence to predict motion vectors or having correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors.

Moreover, an objective of the present invention is to provide motion vector prediction capable of decoding backwards, so that a motion vector lost after an error occurs can be restored. Performing the motion vector prediction in a predetermined sequence allows for this capability. Eifrig, on the other hand, is directed to determining a median or average of motion vector components. Determining this median or average, however, is not useful to performing the backward decoding of Applicant's invention, which allows for restoring of lost motion vectors.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by the prior art, since the prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1.

Furthermore, claims 2 and 3 are believed to be in form for allowance, at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

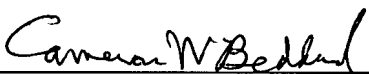
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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